Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("~~———~~") or brackets ("[[ ]]"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently amended) A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:

a digital printer establishing a closed-loop communication link between the designer location and the print service provider location;

the digital printer sending current configuration information stored within memory of the digital printer to the designer location via the closed-loop communication link;

creating a press ready file at the designer location using ~~updated device~~ the current configuration information received from the ~~print service provider location~~ digital printer via ~~said~~ the closed-loop communication link;

submitting ~~said~~ the press ready file from the designer location to the print service provider location via ~~said~~ the closed-loop communication link; ~~and~~

receiving at the print service provider location a printed output of ~~said~~ the press ready file from the digital printer; and

packaging ~~said~~ the printed output at the print service provider location using an automated packaging device.

2. (Currently amended) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the automated packaging device is a Design-to-Ship enabled packaging device ~~and~~ that also forms part of ~~said~~ the closed-loop communication link.

3. (Currently amended) A method of managing workflow according to claim 2, wherein ~~said~~ the automated packaging device is assigned a unique identifier.

4. (Currently amended) A method of managing workflow according to claim 2, ~~wherein after said step of submitting, said method further comprises a step of~~ further comprising verifying**[[,]]** at ~~said~~ the print service provider location**[[,]]** that ~~said~~ the press ready file will be produced at ~~said~~ the print service provider location as ~~designed at the designer location~~ instructed by information contained in the press ready file and, if not, correcting ~~said~~ the press ready file to ensure production substantially as designed.

5-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) An automated packaging device for use with a design-to-press workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location, a print service provider location, and a closed-loop communication link between them, said automated packaging device comprising:

a memory for storing ~~device~~ current configuration information about the automated packaging device; and

a communication module for connecting to ~~said~~ the closed-loop communication link to communicate ~~device~~ the current configuration information ~~with~~ to the designer location and the print service provider location for consideration in design and preflight stages of the workflow.

11. (New) A system for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment, said system comprising:

a digital printer comprising memory that stores current configuration information about the digital printer and a communications module that is used to communicate with other devices over a network, wherein the digital printer is configured to:

establish a closed-loop communication link with a designer location at which print jobs are created and with a print service provider location at which the print jobs are processed,

send the current configuration information stored within digital printer memory to the designer location via the closed-loop communication link, and

generate printed outputs associated with the print jobs; and

an automated packaging device comprising memory that stores current configuration information about the packaging device and a communications module that is used to communicate with other devices over a network, wherein the digital printer is configured to:

communicate over the closed-loop communication link with the designer location and with the print service provider location,

send the current configuration information stored within the packaging device memory to the designer location via the closed-loop communication link, and

package the printed outputs generated by the digital printer according to the instructions associated with the print job.

12. (New) A system of managing workflow according to claim 11, wherein the automated packaging device is a Design-to-Ship enabled packaging device.

13. (New) A system of managing workflow according to claim 12, wherein the automated packaging device is assigned a unique identifier.

14. (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein the digital printer sending current configuration information comprises the digital printer sending a table containing the current configuration information to the designer location.

15. (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 14, wherein creating a press ready file at the designer location comprises adjusting at the designer location a print job to match capabilities of the digital printer relative to the current configuration information for the printing device.

16. (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 15, further comprising the designer location updating a job ticket associated with the print job.

17. (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 16, further comprising a preflight module of the print service provider location receiving the press ready file, reading the updated job ticket, requesting from the digital printer the current configuration information via the closed-loop communication link, and determining whether or not the digital printer is capable of properly processing the print job by comparing information contained in the updated job ticket and the current configuration information of the digital printer.

18. (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 17, further comprising the preflight module providing the print job and updated job ticket to the digital printer.

19. (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 18, further comprising the digital printer reading the updated job ticket and verifying that the digital printer can process the print job according to instructions contained in the updated job ticket.

20. (New) A method of managing workflow according to claim 19, further comprising the digital printer providing updates as to printing status to the designer location and the print service provider location via the closed-loop communication link.